REMARKS

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14-17 and 19-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Kim (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0160504). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application is directed to methods that provide human edible algae by culturing algae in a culture medium free of inorganic additives (see, e.g., present claim 14). In contrast, Kim discloses a medium material for selectively culturing prokaryotes to be used for cultivating crops, resulting in crops having a large content of calcium and minerals (see, e.g., paragraphs 7 and 9 of the reference). Thus, the purpose of the present methods is different from the purpose of the methods taught in Kim, leading to a difference in the claimed subject matter. Because algae are highly sensitive organisms, culture technology and methods have a significant effect on the quality of the resulting algae (for more detail, see page 2 of the present specification). Kim's technique cannot achieve the present technical requirements or obtain the advantages of the present claims since the reference is not concerned with culture of human edible blue-green algae.

In particular, the present claims recite culturing blue-green algae in a culture medium free of inorganic salts, for producing human edible algae. The culture medium is also an organic environment free of inorganic additives (see claim 14). However, as illustrated by claim 1 of Kim, the reference medium material is produced by the reaction of (a) rotting organic wastes comprising poultry excretion, (b) quick lime, (c) magnesia lime, and (d) zeolite, followed by drying the resultant mixture. Accordingly Kim's culture environment still contains inorganic substances, i.e. additives (such as quick lime and magnesia lime) harmful to human beings.

Furthermore, because the present methods are directed to culturing edible algae in an organic environment (i.e. without the existence of any inorganic substances), the resulting algae produced via the present methods contain no inorganic substances. Accordingly, the algae produced by the present invention are human edible without further purification, i.e. without the need to remove inorganic substances harmful to human beings (see, e.g., page 3, lines 2-3 of the specification). However, in contrast to the present claims, the culturing method of Kim cannot

produce edible algae since Kim's medium material contains inorganic substances (such as quick lime and magnesia lime), poultry excretion, and human excretion which are not suitable for human consumption (see paragraph 31 of the reference).

Applicants respectfully conclude that Kim does not teach or even suggest each and every element of the methods recited in the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

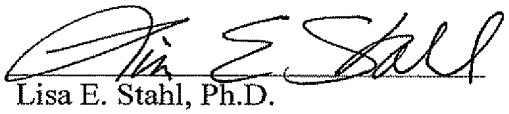
Applicants also respectfully note that the Examiner has cited many similar references involving the use of inorganic medium to reject the present claims in previous Office Actions. All of these references disclose methods that are different from the present invention in that the reference culture medium is not free of inorganic additives. Furthermore, the corresponding Chinese and Taiwanese applications have both been allowed. Thus, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to carefully reconsider patentability of the present claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions related to this response, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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